

BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 7, 2009

Present: Kathleen McGannon, Marty Shapiro, Tom Tesoro, William Crooks, Mark Smith, Ken Martin and alternate Steve Lupien

The second Board of Finance Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Budget for 2009-2010 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen McGannon in the Madison Middle School.

This is the time for the public to air their concerns and opinions to the Board. The Board is here to listen and not to enter into a dialogue.

Paul Kallmeyer...302 Putting Green...It is time to stop or at least put a moratorium on the purchase of additional land. Almost all of the big land parcels have been purchased and we still have no plans for them. We need to have a plan. Also, in speaking with Mr. DelVecchio, he feels that the leaf pickup program costs are more like \$400,000 but his calculation did not include the cost of trucks and equipment.

Allen Finkenauer...34 Hedgehog...The school and town have little pockets of money they can dip into. We are old and do not work and don't have these pockets. Everything is costing more. Older folks cannot get jobs and can't even work. Would like you, during your voting session, to think about the people who are out of work and will be out of work during this period and those people that are old and sick who can't afford the budget going up.

Gary Raytar...8 Sunny Ridge...Mr. Raytar stated that out of the three generations of his family that have lived in Trumbull all their lives, only one remains in town due to the rise in taxes. The others have moved.

Cindy Katske...129 Meadowview Drive...Ms. Katske asks that the Board of Finance not reduce the education budget. Superintendent did a fine job in crafting this budget in light of the poor state of the economy. This is an austere budget whose impact will be felt all across the districts. Despite numerous reductions in every department, this budget does continue to maintain small class sizes and core programs. The First Selectman forwarded the education budget as presented. If the education budget is reduced it will mean larger class sizes, fewer teachers.

Olle Haggstrom...21 Candlewood Road...Mr. Haggstrom wonders if people on the boards are aware of what is happening in the United States. Many seniors have suffered losses in their assets, many people have taken salary cuts. Why in these uncertain times does everything have to increase? Can't we take a little out so it hurts less. He sees no sacrifice in this budget.

Donna Smith...156 Fresh Meadow Drive...Even though the tax increase is small, it is not small enough. She is also opposed to the new pool.

Karen DelVecchio...84 Wedgewood Road...She is the Executive Director of the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce. She supports a full-time Economic Director. Although we are in economic challenging times, this is a position that should be funded. In the current economic climate it becomes even more important to have this position expanded to full time and have someone that is devoted to retention and be able to reach out to companies that may consider Trumbull for their business.

Bob Matthews...14 Scattergood Circle...Chairman, Economic Development Commission...Through the efforts of the ED Director, the Town of Trumbull received a state grant for Trumbull Center. She attracts markets and retains businesses in the town. This is not done in a 19.5 hour week. He strongly encourages approval of this position being made full time.

Tom Ginis...68 Fieldcrest Drive...The Economic Development position is very important to the town to help build the Grand List. We have to be able to compete with other towns that are of similar population and similar commercial resources so that we as taxpayers have to take the loss of the tax base.

Cindy Penkoff...101 Columbine Drive...We need to start looking hard at this budget and bring it down to a zero base budget. This may require cutting areas we don't want cut.

Michael Foley...19 Yorktown Circle...Its great to have all of this but remember people will be moving out of town because they can't afford to live here. Should at least freeze salaries and give some money back to the town.

Carmen Denicola...66 Great Neck Road...We need accountability. As taxpayers we don't have representation. Children will learn with good teachers and not all these special this, special that. Sometimes hard times are good for everybody, even the students.

Art Mikucki...85 Canterbury Lane...Expenses are getting out of control. We need to have pressure put on the Town Council and reverse their standing on the good as new high school. I think this high school will break this town.

Vickie Tesoro...133 Beechwood Avenue...Request the Board of Finance not reduce the BOE budget. The Superintendent put together a budget that is less than they need to maintain the status quo but yet will protect the core academic programs for our school system.

Tom Gallo...11 Laurie Road...Ask that you look in every nook and cranny for any possible reduction. Please don't rubber stamp this budget and pass it on. We need to have a zero percent increase or reduced budget.

Angela Parnoff Slano...1426 Huntington Tpke...Request no tax increase.

James Abraham...48 Craig Lane...Economic Development Commission...He is a supporter in of having a full-time Economic Director. Agrees to the need to tighten up on the budget.

Robert Abercrombie...10 Pleasant Street...Everybody's budget has been cut. We should have a zero base budget.

Marcella Durden...22 Haverhill Road...We should have a zero percent increase in taxes. We should ask for givebacks from the unions and from the employees.

Stephanie Vaughn...64 Surrey Lane...Has her own business but has continued to employ every one of her employees at a reduction in salaries. Also, we need to respect the education budget. Please pass the education budget as put forth.

Tony D'Aquila...29 Valley View Road...Mr. D'Aquila has a number of items to be proposed on the town side of the budget. In 1988 former Director of Public Works Paul Kallmeyer estimated that the leaf collection should cost \$480,000. John DeVecchio things the savings would only be \$46,000. I suggest that we pull the plug on the leaf collection. Residents should dispose of their own leaves. Money saved could then be given to the BOE because they intend to cut ten paraprofessionals.

David Prusch...19 Woodcrest Avenue...A lot of pressure is being put on the homeowners at this time. We need to see the way we handle our services.

Carmen DeNicola...Need to learn how to say "no". Trumbull should be the first town to lower taxes in the state. Education budget goes to benefits and salaries not the students.

Tom Gallo...

Tony D'Aquilla...Suggests the following: salary reduction for non-union personnel. Anyone making over \$100,000, cut back 10%; under \$100,000, cut back 5%; union employees should give up 5% of their salary. If they refuse they should be furloughed one day every two weeks; transfer station, eliminate one person; close temporarily the Helen Plumb Building, the Annex, Senior Center, Teen Center. Charge all organizations a fee to use our parklands; discontinue financial support of Fairchild Nichols Library; eliminate Trumbull Day; disregard Enterprise Fund for Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

Bob Matthews...read letter from David Mack regarding Economic Development Director. He also clarified the Economic Development Director was erroneously recorded on the wrong line of the budget. It was a request made by the EDC and should have been shown on the FT Salary line.

Andrew Durbin...Tax increase will only compound future taxes. Employees have unions to defend them, residents have no one.

Luigi Veltri...15 John Street...There should be no reason for a tax increase.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bokine, Clerk